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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Akira GYOUTOKU et al.

Group Art Unit : 2852

Appl. No. : 10/726,594

Examiner : Not Yet Assigned

Filed : December 4, 2003

Confirmation No. : 6999

For : IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, and supplemental to the Information Disclosure Statement that was filed on March 18, 2004, Applicants hereby submit a copy of a Partial International Search Report from the European Patent Office that was mailed on April 20, 2004, with respect to patent family member Japanese Patent Application No. PCT/jP03/15616, in which the European Patent Examiner cited the following documents:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2001-63136, which was published on March 13, 2001, together with an English language Abstract of the same. Applicants note that this document was previously submitted in the present application, and thus a copy is not being provided herewith.

European Patent Application Publication No. EP 0 916 506, which was published on May 19, 1999;

European Patent Application Publication No. EP 0 550 190, which was published on July 7, 1993;

U.S. Patent No. 5,751,327 to De COCK et al., which issued on May 12, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 6,121,995 to KATTNER, which issued on September 19, 2000;

and

U.S. Patent No. 6,012,291 to EMA, which issued on January 11, 2000.

The category of relevance, pertinent portions, and claims to which each document is relevant, as ascertained by the European Examiner applying the appropriate rules to the claims are set forth in the Partial International Search Report.

Further to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's decision to waive the requirement under 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(i), copies of the U.S. patents are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copies are needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

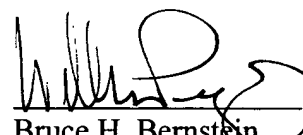
Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents are attached hereto and all of the documents have been listed on the attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

Applicants note that an Office Action on the merits has not issued in the present application, and thus no fee is believed necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted material. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued and is crossing this statement in the mail, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any

fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (p) to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully Submitted,
Akira GYOUTOKU et al.


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June 24, 2004
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